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## **PRESS CLIPPINGS**

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### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #4**

**(Management of Productive, Life-Sustaining Natural Resources Strengthened)**

## **More households hooked up to renewable energy systems**

Sixty-year-old Suraida Mampo lives with her six children and five grandchildren in the village of Tumbao, eight kilometers from the town center of Buluan, in Maguindanao province in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), southern Philippines.

When her village was still un-electrified, Suraida and all her neighbors used kerosene lamps at night. Each time dusk set in, Suraida would ask her son Sammy to

light up their small bottle filled with kerosene as she would retreat to her room to avoid inhaling the fumes, which made her cough violently. In difficult times, they used cheaper diesel or gasoline, even though it emitted even thicker fumes that made Sammy vomit when he happened to inhale them.

For many remote and unenergized communities in the country, the only source of light at night is the kerosene lamp. As of June 2005, the Department of Energy (DOE)

has identified 2,991 still unelectrified remote rural communities in the country. Of these communities, 1,591, or more than 50 percent, are in Mindanao.

Suraida's house, along close to 6,000 other households in 200 conflict-affected remote communities in the ARMM and western and central Mindanao, was finally lit up with electric lights in April 2004 under a rural electrification project called the Alliance for Mindanao Off-grid Renewable

Energy (AMORE) Program.

To support the government's thrust towards 100 percent rural electrification, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) partnered with the Department of Energy, the ARMM, and Mirant Philippines to undertake a rural electrification project. AMORE is being implemented by Winrock International, a non-profit organization based on the US and a global leader in promoting clean and renewable energy.

**(Source: Philippine Star, 8/28/05, page 19)**